Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1(Currently Amended).   A web server system comprising:

a plurality of client applications coupled to a communication network and generating web access requests;

an intermediary server coupled to the communication network to receive the web access requests;

a data storage mechanism coupled to the network and having an interface for communicating with the intermediary server;

means within the intermediary server responsive to a received web access request for establishing a channel with the data storage mechanism to obtain data from the data storage mechanism in response to a received ~~client~~ web access request; and

a web server within the intermediary server for formatting the obtained data into a web page that is responsive to a particular web access request.

2(Currently Amended).   The web server system of claim 1 wherein at least one of the client applications comprises a web browser application and the ~~data~~ web access requests comprise HTTP requests.

3(Currently Amended).   The web server system of claim 1 wherein the intermediary server comprises a web server having a first interface for receiving the ~~database~~ web access requests and a second interface operable to communicate with the data storage mechanism interface.

4(Original). The web server system of claim 3 wherein the intermediary server is topologically close to the client applications and topologically distant from the data storage mechanism.

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5(Currently Amended).   The web server system of claim 1 wherein the intermediary server comprises:

a front-end computer located topologically close to the client application and configured to receive the ~~data~~ web access requests;

5   a back-end computer located topologically close to the data storage mechanism and configure to communicate with the interface of the data storage mechanism; and

a communication channel between the front-end and back-end computers.

6(Original).   The web server system of claim 5 further comprising a web server implemented within the front-end computer.

7(Original).   The web server system of claim 1 wherein the data storage mechanism further comprises:

a database operative to return selected database contents in response to queries;

5   an instruction processor operative to generate queries against the database and receive data returned by the database.

8(Original).   The web server of claim 7 further comprising:

means within the intermediary server for generating a remote procedure call directed to the data storage mechanism; and

means within the instruction processor for executing the remote

5 procedure call to generate a query against the database in response to receiving the remote procedure call.

9(Original).   The web server system of claim 7 further comprising:

means within the instruction processor for generating a remote procedure call directed to the intermediary server; and

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5   means within the intermediary server for executing the remote
procedure call to generate web page responsive to a particular web access
request.

10(Original). The web server system of claim 1 further comprising:

a resolver mechanism for supplying a network address of the
intermediary server to the client applications, wherein the resolver mechanism
dynamically selects a particular intermediary server from amongst a plurality

5   of intermediary servers.

11(Original). A method for serving web-based content comprising:

providing a communication network;

generating requests for web content using a plurality of client
applications coupled to the network;

5   providing an intermediary server coupled to the network to receive the
requests for web content from client applications;

providing a data server coupled to the network and having an interface
for communicating with the intermediary server;

causing the intermediary server to access the data server in response

10   to receiving a request from a client application;

using the intermediary server, generating a web page using the
database content obtained from the data server; and

delivering the web page to the client application that generated the
request for database content.

12(Currently Amended).   The method of claim 11 wherein the act of
generating requests for ~~database~~ <u>web</u> content comprises generating an HTTP
request.

13(Original). The method of claim 11 wherein the intermediary server
is topologically close to the client applications and topologically distant from
the data storage mechanism.

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14(Currently Amended).   The method of claim 11 wherein the step of providing an intermediary server comprises:

providing a front-end computer located topologically close to the client application and configured to receive the ~~database access~~ requests <u>for web</u>

5   <u>content</u>;

providing a back-end computer located topologically close to the data storage mechanism and configure to communicate with the interface of the data storage mechanism; and

maintaining a communication channel between the front-end and back-

10   end computers.

15(Original). The method of claim 11 further comprising:

causing the intermediary server to issue a remote procedure call to the data server over the established channel to initiate the transport of data.

16(Original). The method of claim 11 further comprising:

causing the data server to issue a remote procedure call to the intermediary server over the established channel to initiate the formatting and delivery of the database content using the data obtained from the data server.

17(Original). The method of claim 11 further comprising:

supplying a network address of the intermediary server to the client applications by dynamically selecting a particular intermediary server from amongst a plurality of intermediary servers.

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